

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1.*RUGGED—.75 mile. Starts at nature center parking lot, proceeds to Observation Tower overlooking Ohio River, then along canyon wall to park road. Long, steep grades in and out of canyon.
 - 2. VERY RUGGED—3 miles. One way No outlet in North End. The **STAIRS** at Big Clifty Falls are **CLOSED!** Continual water damage and rockslides have required the abandonment of this structure for everyone’s safety! Therefore, access in and out of the canyon is available only via Trails 1, 4, 5, and 8. Trail 2 is primarily the stone bed of Clifty Creek and may be impassible during times of high water. **Areas above and below all waterfalls are always OFF LIMITS!**
 - 3.*RUGGED—1 mile. Starts at park road just south of Poplar Grove. Long grade descends to mid-canyon, then follows along canyon. Steep grades rise to Poplar Grove, easy walking to near side of Beech Grove connecting with trail 4.
 - 4.*RUGGED—.75 mile. Starts at Hoffman Falls parking lot, short distance to spectacular falls overlook. Follows canyon to Lilly Memorial (spur connects to Clifty Creek). Long, steep staircase at Lilly Memorial.
 - 5.*RUGGED—.875 mile. Starts at Lilly Memorial, long, steep staircase to mid-canyon. Follows along canyon past tunnel entrances (spur connects to Clifty Creek), past Oak Grove to Tunnel Falls. Steep staircase from falls overlook to road.
 - 6. MODERATELY RUGGED—.5 mile. Starts at Hickory Grove, follows canyon just below rim to Lookout Point. Some very rocky footing.
 - 7. MODERATELY RUGGED—1.25 miles. Starts at Clifty Shelter, proceeds past Little Clifty Falls along rocky footing to Lookout Point. Returns to picnic area east of shelter via upper Little Clifty Creek gorge.
 - 8. RUGGED—4.5 miles. Starts just west of north gate house. Proceeds south along west rim of Clifty Canyon. Steep grades to Clifty Creek at north and south ends of trail. (Steep switchback connects 8 to creek across from Oak Grove.) Exits south canyon to park road or trail 1 to nature center.
 - 9. MODERATE—1 mile. Campground to nature center and Clifty Inn via swimming pool.
 - 10.EASY—.75 mile. Starts at back of swimming pool parking lot, features old field ecology.
- *Brough’s Folly 1852 railroad path

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

CAMPING — Campground equipped with modern facilities. Occupancy limited to two (2) weeks. Some sites will accommodate trailers. No modern hookups, but electricity available. Reservations for camping available through the Central Reservation System.

HIKING — More than twelve miles of moderate to rugged trails.

INN — All rooms have a private bath, telephone, color TV, air conditioning. Dining room is open to the public serving a complete daily menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Sunday dinners, banquets and convention facilities are available. Inn swimming pool available to inn guests. Reservations available through the inn reservation system.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE — Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Program schedules are available on the website at www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/ or inquire at park office or nature center. Available year round.

PICNIC AREAS — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields.

SWIMMING — Park swimming pool with waterslide and wading pool, open the Saturday before Memorial Day and no later than Labor Day.

SHELTERS — Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reseration System.

TENNIS COURTS — Located across from Clifty Inn.

FOR AN ENJOYABLE TRAIL HIKE

- Carry and use the Park Map.
- Young **children** should never be allowed to hike unsupervised – they must be attended by responsible individuals.
- Wear appropriate foot gear such as hiking boots or athletic shoes.
- Know your limits and take your time – hills on trails are often long and steep!
- Trails in Clifty Canyon are **Closed** after sunset.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS.**
- No one is allowed immediately above or below waterfalls at any time.
- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to such places and times as designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles must remain on paved roadway. Bicycles not allowed on hiking trails unless so designated. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors prohibited.
- Park closes from 11:00 PM until 7:00 AM, and no one is allowed in the park, except for campers using their sites between these hours.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)
www.camp.IN.gov





OPEN ALL YEAR
Rooms Available
Dining Room Open to the Public
Information toll free: 1-877-925-4389
Reservations: **1-877-lodges1**
(1-877-563-4371)
Online: www.indianainns.com



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Clifty Falls State Park
1501 Green Road
Madison, Indiana 47250

Mapping Address: Clifty Falls State Park
2221 Clifty Drive
Madison, Indiana 47250

Call: (812) 273-8885
Fax: (812) 265-6662

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.IN.gov/dnr

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

CLIFTY FALLS
STATE PARK



People have always been fascinated by scenes of geologic splendor, land which provides a witness to the awesome forces at work in nature. With its narrow valley, sheer cliffs, and plunging waterfalls, Clifty Falls State Park is such a place.

Located on state roads 56 and 62 just west of Madison, Indiana, Clifty Falls State Park was established in 1920 to preserve the falls on Clifty Creek, “a bit of original Indiana”. Initially the park consisted of 617 acres, primarily the canyon and its waterfalls. In 1965 the park doubled in size when it acquired adjacent uplands from the Madison State Hospital. It now covers 1416 acres.

Clifty Falls was created during the Ice Age when the southward flowing waters of Clifty Creek met the newly formed Ohio River in a spectacular plunge, a waterfall that may have been two hundred feet high. The falls has since cut its way into bedrock to a point more than two miles north of its original position. Today, at a height of sixty feet, it continues the retreat upstream at a rate of one-quarter inch per year.

Because of its small watershed, the park’s four major falls are at their best from December through June. July through November offer meager falls and the easiest hiking in Clifty Creek’s spectacular stone bed.

In 1852 the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad began work on a route through the wilds of Clifty Canyon. Abandoned in bankruptcy, the project left extensive grade and stone work, scenic passage for present day foot trails. The most prominent remnant is a muddy, rock strewn, six-hundred foot tunnel, piercing the hillside beneath Oak Grove. It is passable on foot with flashlight.

The nature enthusiast will find a wealth of opportunity here. The park’s 425 million year old shale and limestone rocks contain numerous marine fossils and are among the oldest bedrock exposures in Indiana. Beneath rugged cliffs spring wildflowers bloom in a quiet woodland air. Songbirds, hawks, and vultures stir in all seasons while deer and wild turkey inhabit the uplands with the occasional fox and weasel. Naturalist programs explore the park in year round field trips.

Clifty Inn, overlooking the Ohio valley and the historic river town of Madison, provides year round lodging and meeting facilities. And, Madison itself offers the visitor a rich step back in time along the Ohio’s beautiful banks.

We believe you’ll find each visit to Clifty Falls State Park a rewarding one. Enjoy it all year long!

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding of deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll car windows up tightly.